

**STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT**

# **Basham Press Release**

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7800 • Fax: 517-373-9310  
E-mail: [senrbasham@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senrbasham@senate.michigan.gov) • [www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD08](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD08)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: Sen. Ray Basham**  
**(517) 373-7800**

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## **Basham Announces Job Training Grant for SEMCA**

LANSING— State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) praised the State of Michigan's award of an additional \$175,000 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to the Southeastern Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) Michigan Works and commended the agency for its continuing role in linking Downriver citizens with local jobs.

Administered by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the Work First Program helps participants make a successful transition from the welfare rolls to the workplace by enhancing their job search and job readiness skills and developing positive work histories.

"I applaud Governor Granholm and her administration for allocating these funds to our community," Sen. Basham said. "The training offered through SEMCA will strengthen our workforce and provide many people from the community with the skills and opportunity they need to increase their earning potential and secure a brighter, more prosperous future for them and their families."

SEMCA, through a partnership with the State of Michigan, employers, K-12 schools, community colleges and local Workforce Development boards, provides valuable training that gives individuals the chance to learn much-needed skills.

“These collaborative efforts are beneficial to our region in that it helps reduce welfare costs by training people to be self-sufficient,” Sen. Basham added. “With this additional TANF funding SEMCA can continue to provide the critical employment-related support services to Work First participants as they prepare for and transition back into the workforce.”

“Understandably the massive job losses we’ve experienced during this economic downturn have led to record numbers of the unemployed in our communities going to SEMCA for assistance,” Sen. Basham said. “I applaud the Department of Labor and Economic Growth for recognizing this fact and I thank them for taking another important step to provide the needed support to our workers in the Downriver region.”

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